

a plurality of sets of mounting locations provided thereon so that said frame defines a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

5 a first cartridge receiving device mounted to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said first cartridge receiving device is located at a first position within said frame; and

10 a second cartridge receiving device mounted to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said second cartridge receiving device is located at a second position within said frame, said first and second cartridge receiving devices together occupying a volumetric space within said frame, wherein said first and second cartridge receiving devices are located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the first component configuration;

15 the second component configuration comprising a third cartridge receiving device mounted to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame, said third cartridge receiving device occupying substantially the same volumetric space within said frame as is occupied by said first and second cartridge receiving devices in said first component configuration, wherein said third cartridge receiving device is located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the second component configuration.

10. A reconfigurable cartridge processing module for use in a data storage system, comprising:

a frame, said frame having a lower plate and an upper plate positioned in generally parallel, spaced-apart

relation, said lower and upper plates of said frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations provided thereon so that said frame defines a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

5 a first cartridge receiving device mounted to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said first cartridge receiving device is located at a first position within said frame; and

10 *b2* a second cartridge receiving device mounted to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that said second cartridge receiving device is located at a second position within said frame, the second position being located adjacent the first position so that said second cartridge receiving device is located alongside said first cartridge receiving device, wherein said first and second cartridge receiving devices are located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the first component configuration;

15 the second component configuration comprising a third cartridge receiving device mounted to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame, said third cartridge receiving device in said second component configuration substantially replacing said first and second cartridge receiving devices in said first component configuration and vice-versa, so that a volumetric space occupied by said first and second cartridge receiving devices in said first component configuration is substantially occupied by said third cartridge receiving device in said second component configuration and vice-versa, wherein said third cartridge receiving device is located substantially between the upper

b7
and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the second component configuration.

14. A reconfigurable cartridge processing module for use in a data storage system, comprising:

5 a frame, said frame having a lower plate and an upper plate positioned in generally parallel, spaced-apart relation, said lower and upper plates of said frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations provided thereon so that said frame defines a first component configuration and a second component configuration, the first component configuration comprising:

10 first cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame for receiving at least one data cartridge; and second cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame for receiving said at least one data cartridge, wherein said first and second cartridge receiving means are located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the first component configuration;

15 20 the second component configuration comprising third cartridge receiving means mounted to said frame for receiving said at least one data cartridge, said third cartridge receiving means in said second component configuration replacing said first and second cartridge receiving means in said first component configuration and vice-versa so that a volumetric space occupied by said first and second cartridge receiving means in said first configuration is substantially occupied by said third cartridge receiving means in said second configuration and vice-versa, wherein said third cartridge receiving means is located substantially between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the second component configuration.

20. A method, comprising:

5 providing a frame having a lower plate and an upper plate positioned in generally parallel, spaced-apart relation, said lower and upper plates of said frame having a plurality of sets of mounting locations thereon;

10 *B4* defining a first component configuration by mounting a first cartridge receiving device to a first set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame and by mounting a second cartridge receiving device to a second set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame so that the second cartridge receiving device is located adjacent the first cartridge receiving device, wherein said first and second cartridge receiving devices are located substantially 15 between the upper and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the first component configuration; or, in the alternative,

20 defining a second component configuration by mounting a third cartridge receiving device to a third set of the plurality of sets of mounting locations provided on said frame, said third cartridge receiving device in the second component configuration substantially replacing said first and second cartridge receiving devices in the first component configuration and vice-versa, so that a 25 volumetric space occupied by said first and second cartridge receiving devices in the first component configuration is substantially occupied by said third cartridge receiving device in the second component configuration and vice-versa, wherein said third cartridge receiving device is located substantially between the upper 30 and lower plates of said frame when said frame is in the second component configuration.

R E M A R K S

Claims 7-9 are canceled. Claims 1, 10, 14, and 20 are